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The Irish Nationality. By ALICE STOPFORD GREEN. (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1912. Pp. vi, 256.)

The End of the Irish Parliament. By JOSEPH R. FISHER. (London and New York: Edward Arnold and Longmans, Green and Company, 1911. Pp. xii, 316.)

These two books, although covering the same ground, in part, differ quite radically in character. *The Irish Nationality* is one of the volumes of the Home University Library of Modern Knowledge and traces the development of Irish nationality from the earliest times practically to the present. The first chapter is on the "Gaels in Ireland" and the last is entitled "Ireland under the Union." The book is a popular, readable sketch, written in a vein more sympathetic than critical. It sets forth the early civilization and learning of Ireland in glowing terms and makes large claims for early Irish missionary zeal. While Ireland undoubtedly has a creditable record in this respect, some of the claims appear excessive. They are frequently made, however, in general terms, and are, at times, matters of judgment which cannot well be disputed. The book condemns the methods used in bringing about the Union with England and asserts that the act "lacked all moral sanction."

While the discriminating student will find rather too much of sentiment in the former book, the latter will impress him as being almost entirely devoid of sentiment. It also justifies the passage of the act of union and defends the means by which the act was pushed through.

Mr. Fisher's book covers about a century and a third of Irish history —from the beginning of the vice-royalty of Lord Townshend in 1767 to the union with England in 1801. The last chapter of the book deals with the passage of the act of union, while the earlier ones give an outline of the events leading up to that important act. Mr. Fisher claims that the Irish parliament was not representative of the people and that the Irish were willing to have their country annexed to England. He also claims that the Irish parliament was corrupt and that the only way out of the dilemma lay in union. He frankly admits that votes to bring about the union were bought, but at the same time he defends the method of passage. "But in spite of all," he says, "the old objection against the union will be raised that the majority in its favor was 'bought.' Yes; it was bought, as every majority in the Irish parliament for a century past had been bought. The majority was bought because it was there for sale, and there was no way round, except the

Cromweltian or the Napoleonic." A little later this rather remarkable statement is made: "One thing certain is that in no shape or form can the buying up of these seats be regarded as bribery." While the ethical standards of the eighteenth century were not as high as those of the present time the reader will hardly be convinced by Mr. Fisher's defense of Castlereagh and others instrumental in the passage of the act of union.

T. F. MORAN.

The Governments of Europe. By FREDERIC AUSTIN OGG. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1913. Pp. xiv, 668.)

The author of this work, is assistant professor of history in Simmons College, Boston. In addition to works on American and mediaeval European history, he has published a number of essays dealing with political and economic themes in such periodicals as the *Review of Reviews*, and is the author of a study of *Social Progress in Contemporary Europe.* He therefore brings to this work the authority of experience and matured judgment.

In the preface we are told that while he hopes the book will prove useful to such general readers as seek such information as it contains, it was "conceived and planned primarily as a text for use in colleges;" and that its content has been determined mainly by three considerations; first, to afford an opportunity for the comparative study of political institutions; second, to present enough of the origins and growth of these institutions to meet the need of readers not familiar with recent European history; and third, to include some treatment of the political parties and the institutions of local government.

Great Britain has been given 143 pages, Germany 96, France 64, Italy 52, Switzerland 37, Austria-Hungary 75, the Low Countries 36, Scandinavia 50, and Spain and Portugal 40. The section devoted to Germany has 17 pages on "The Empire and the Constitution;" 13 on the "Imperial Government; Emperor, Chancellor, and Bundesrath;" 22 on the Reichstag, parties, and judiciary; 12 on the Prussian constitution; 18 on local government in Prussia; and 14 on the minor states of the Empire. This historical treatment of France begins with the revolution of 1789, and of other countries with the events which bear directly upon the present political organization ef each. In other words the book deals with actual government rather than with constitutional history, a distinction which is too often ignored. If the author has